

## **FoodNet Active Surveillance for *Yersinia enterocolitica* Infection: 1996**

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We conducted active laboratory-based surveillance for *Y. Enterocolitica* (YE) infection in Minnesota (MN), Oregon (OR), and selected metropolitan counties in California (CA), Connecticut (CT), and Georgia, (GA) as part of CDC's Emerging Infections Program, Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet). From January through December 1996 YE was isolated from 148 patients. Of the 148 patients there were 73 (49.3%) males, 73 (49.3%) females, and 2 (1.4%) of unknown gender. Sixty (40.5%) were black (B), 50 (33.8%) were white (W), 14 (9.5%) were Asians (A), 8 (5.4%) were Hispanic (H), 1 (0.7%) was Native American, and 15 (10.1%) were of unknown race. The median age was 2.0 years (range 18 days to 83 years, mean 13.9 years). Patients from GA or CT had a lower median age than patients from other sites (8 months' vs. 21 years). Sixty-one (41%) patients were less than 1 year old. The incidence of YE infection during the study period was 1.12/100,000 pop/yr [range 0.60 (OR) to 2.73 (GA)]. The rates were higher in younger age groups (29.8 in age < 1 yr., 3.3 in age 1 -<6 yrs, 0.46 in age >= 6 yrs) and in non-white race/ethnicity (3.58 in B, 2.31 in A, 1.28 in H, and 0.47 in W); the incidence was highest in B children less than 1 year old (149.0). Seventy-eight (53%) cases occurred in the months Nov.-Feb., however the seasonal variation was only apparent in B race. Among the 218 labs performing stool cultures, the proportion of all stool cultures processed by labs that screen all stools for YE was 38.9% (106,728/274,224) [range 14.3% (OR) to 75.8% (CA)]. Adjusted incidence rates based on the rate of screening in each site demonstrated more marked geographic variation [overall rate 2.88, range 1.18 (CA) to 13.51 (GA)]. In the United States, YE infection shows considerable geographic and racial variation. In FoodNet, YE is particularly common among B, H, and A children less than 1 year old and most common among these populations in metropolitan counties in CT and GA.

### **Suggested citation:**

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